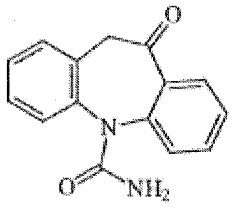
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

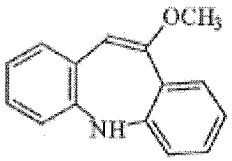
1. (Previously Presented) Process for preparing oxcarbazepine of formula



(I)

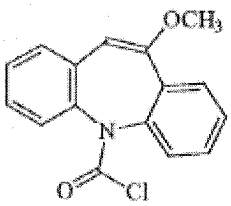
which comprises:

a) reacting in a chlorocarbonylation reaction the compound of formula



(II)

with triphosgene in the presence of a base, to give the compound of formula

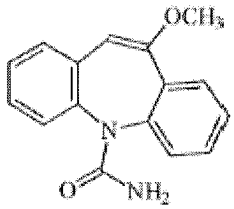


(III)

wherein said process results in an increased overall yield in comparison to comparable processes incorporating either phosgene or diphosgene.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1, which further comprises:

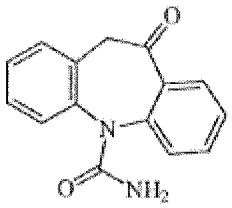
b) ammonolysis of the compound of formula III to give the compound of formula



(IV)

and

c) deprotecting the compound of formula IV by acid hydrolysis to give oxcarbazepine of formula (I)



(I)

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed with triphosgene in a triphosgene molar ratio, relative to the compound of formula II, of between 0.46:1 and 0.54:1.

4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the base is triethylamine, in a base molar ratio relative to the compound of formula II of between 1.4 : 1 and 1.6 : 1.

5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, in which said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed in toluene at a temperature of between 90 and 110°C.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, in which the ammonolysis b) is performed with aqueous ammonia in methanol.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, in which the deprotecting step c) is performed with hydrochloric acid in aqueous medium at a pH of about 1 and at a deprotecting temperature of between 90 and 95 °C.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1, in which said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed with triphosgene in a triphosgene molar ratio, relative to the compound of formula II, of about 0.5:1

9. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the base is triethylamine, in a base molar ratio relative to the compound of formula II of about 0.5:1

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein

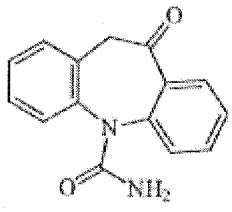
(i) said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed with a triphosgene molar ratio, relative to the compound of formula II, of between 0.46:1 and 0.54:1 [[.]] .

(ii) the base is triethylamine, in a base molar ratio relative to the compound of formula II of between 1.4 : 1 and 1.6 : 1 and

(iii) chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed in toluene.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1[[1]], wherein the overall yield is about 80 %.

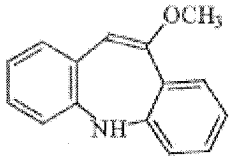
12. (New) Process for preparing oxcarbazepine of formula



(I)

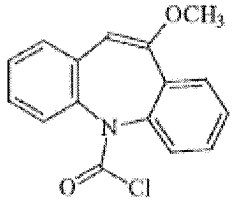
which comprises:

a) reacting in a chlorocarbonylation reaction the compound of formula



(II)

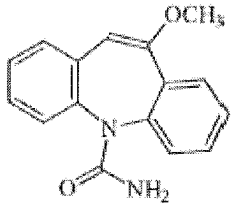
with triphosgene in the presence of a base, to give the compound of formula



(III)

said process further comprising

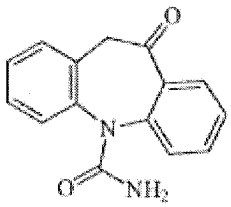
b) ammonolysis of the compound of formula III to give the compound of formula



(IV)

and

c) deprotecting the compound of formula IV by acid hydrolysis to give oxcarbazepine of formula (I)



(I)

wherein said process results in an increased overall yield in comparison to comparable processes incorporating either phosgene or diphosgene,

and said deprotecting step c) is performed in an aqueous medium with hydrochloric acid at a temperature of between 90 and 95 °C.

13. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein said wherein said deprotecting step c) is performed at a pH ranging between 0 and 2.